(c) to (e) There is a good scope for increasing Soyabean production in Orissa State. A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in the State of Orissa for increasing the production of various oilseed crops including Soyabean. Under this programme, assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of farm implements, Rhyzodium culture, farmer's training etc. In addition the assistance is also provided for transfe orf technology through block demonstrations and frontline demonstrations.

Harmful effects of Pesticides on the Production of Rice

484. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the chemicals sprayed in the rice field do more harm than good and the production of rice continues to stagnate;

(b) the steps taken by Government to ban the use of pesticides on rice to increase its production;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are aware that Indonesia and Phillipines have already banned the use of pesticides on rice which has resulted in ten per cent increase in rice yeild in Indonesia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRIULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Sir, the Government is advocating the promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in rice in various Sates|UTs which *inter-alia* includes adoption of cultural practices, use of tolerant|resistant crop varieties, conservation and augmentation of biocontrol agents and need based use of safe pesticides viz. neem pesticides, bio-cides etc. This approach aims to minimise the use of chemical pesticides in rice.

Judicious use of pesticides based on Economic Threshold Level of pests viz. insect pests, diseases and weeds is recommended in rice. When such recommended peticides are used as per Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), various pests are controlled efficaciously without affecting rice production.

(d) According to reports the adoption of IPM has resulted in minimising the use of chemical pesticides resulting in increase in rice yeilds.

Production of ARECA Nuts

485. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of Areca nuts during the last three years State-wise;

(b) the total export of Areca nuts during the last three years and consequential foreign exchange earning;

(c) whether Government have made efforts for promoting the export of Areca nuts, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that Areca nut production in Maharashtra is on the decline because of the presence of viral on the plant; and

(e) what measures Government have taken to eradicate the viral?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The State-wise